THE TREASURE of 1715

At sunrise on July 24, 1715 a convoy of twelve ships set sail from Havana Harbor bound for Spain. It consisted of five ships of the New Spain Flota, loaded with silver, cochineal, indigo, oriental porcelains and silk . . . six Galeones de Tierra Firme filled with gold, emeralds, pearls and silver . . . and a lone French vessel which had received permission to accompany the group to Europe.

One week later eleven of the ships lay at the ocean's bottom off the Florida Coast, together with more than 1,000 of their crew members.

Only the French ship escaped the force of the killer hurricane which struck its terrible blow in the early morning hours of July 31st. The treasure fleet had disappeared beneath the waves with a cargo worth close to $14,000,000. Within weeks Spanish salvage divers had recovered approximately $6,000,000 of the treasure. The balance remained, relatively undisturbed, for more than 250 years with the exception of a few coins which were occasionally washed ashore.

The uncovering, by pure chance, of one of these coins on the beach near present-day Cape Kennedy led to what has been aptly termed the greatest treasure discovery of modern times. So great, in fact, that a museum has been erected to properly house and display this fabulous find from the deep. It stands today close to the site of man's newest and greatest adventure.

The gold coins from that trove, only a small fraction of which have been recovered, are now being sold exclusively by STACK'S. It is a very special group of coins . . . rare, and magnificently preserved. Indeed many of the dates on the pieces were unknown before this discovery. They boast an exciting history, a true pedigree. They are a very real, tactile link to the swashbuckling past. Yes . . . they are very special . . . and STACK'S takes a very special pride in being selected as their sole sales agency.

The coins are shown, grouped by type, on the following pages. Look through them. It's an enthralling journey into the past.

NOTE: The January, 1965 edition of National Geographic Magazine carries the entire story of the search for the treasure, its discovery and its salvage operations. It's fascinating reading, brilliantly illustrated.

A WORD ABOUT CONDITION AND QUALITY

These coins are both rare and beautiful. They are numismatic "finds" of an exceptional character and they are—as well—magnificent pieces for use in jewelry of many kinds. Should you desire some specimens as a collector, we urge you to consider those of superior numismatic quality while they are available. Those of a lesser quality as collector's items should be considered for use in jewelry.

Grading the cob issues struck by the Spanish Imperial Mints in Latin America during the 17th and 18th Century presents a number of special problems. Conventional grading terms become meaningless because the primitive minting techniques made it virtually impossible to produce fully struck pieces. In the entire series the percentage of coins showing any date, mint mark or assayer's initials is extremely low. As a matter of necessity, therefore, we have devised a numerical grading scale for the coins.

Before explaining our grading system, a word about the coins found in the wrecks is in order. We will deal primarily with the gold, devoting comments to the silver on another page. It should be recognized however, that the same broad principles apply to coins in both metals. All the coins recovered are technically "Uncirculated" in the sense that they never left the mints of Mexico and Peru until packed for shipment. The gold survived over two centuries of immersion unharmed. But only about 15% of the pieces carry dates and many of these are partially dated. It follows that the prices of the coins do not reflect condition in the conventional sense, but such factors as the completeness of the date, how much detail of the design actually shows and the sharpness of the strike.

Numerical Grading Scale for Cobs

The coins in each of the grades indicated below fall into *three categories: fully dated, partially dated* and *undated.*

Grade 1. Coins in Grade 1 should be sharply struck with a four numeral date, mint mark, assayer's mark, denomination and a portion of the legend showing. Partially dated coins should carry at least two clear digits, preferably the last. All three categories have a full shield on the obverse and a full cross on the reverse. Only 10% to 15% of all the coins recovered fall into this class.

Grade 2. Coins in Grade 2 are not as sharply struck as those described above. Not all of the shield may be visible. The denomination and other details are vague. On partially dated pieces the last digit, and sometimes the two preceding digits may show in full. In all three categories only a partial shield may be visible and little or no legend may appear.

Grade 3. Coins in Grade 3 are in average condition. The strike should be clear but not necessarily sharp. Only part of the four digits in the date and an incomplete mint mark shows. On partially dated pieces only the last and a portion of the next to the last digit can be expected to appear. In all three categories there will be little or no legend and an incomplete shield.

Grade 4. Coins in Grade 4 are not sharp but should not be badly double struck. The four digits of the date will be barely visible. The mint mark may be partly present or entirely missing. On partially dated pieces at least a portion of the last digit should appear. In all three categories only half the shield and no legends will appear.

Grade 5. Coins in Grade 5 can be expected to be double struck on both sides with the denomination largely determined by size and weight. There will be very few fully dated pieces, although in a few cases it may just be possible to make out all four digits. On partially dated coins only the last digit will appear. In all three categories the general details of the design will be confused and incomplete.

GOLD COINS OF MEXICO

8 ESCUDOS

Obverse: Cross. Reverse: Arms of Spain.

Coins Shown Actual Size

8-1	8 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Full Date	Grade IV	$1,900.00
8-2	8 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Full Date	Grade II	2,500.00
8-3	8 Escudos	1713	Mexico	Full Date	Grade I	2,700.00
8-4	8 Escudos	1713	Mexico	Full Date	Grade III	2,250.00
8-5	8 Escudos	1713	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade II	1,800.00
8-6	8 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade II	1,800.00
8-7	8 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade V	1,200.00
8-8	8 Escudos	(1714)	Mexico	Undated	Grade II	1,300.00
8-9	8 Escudos	(1713)	Mexico	Undated	Grade III	1,050.00
8-10	8 Escudos	(1713)	Mexico	Undated	Grade IV	900.00

The date of striking of "Undated" coins has been determined by examination of die styles

GOLD COINS OF MEXICO

4 ESCUDOS

Obverse: Cross. Reverse: Arms of Spain.

Coins Shown Actual Size

4-1	4 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Full Date	Grade I	$2,600.00
4-2	4 Escudos	1713	Mexico	Full Date	Grade I	2,600.00
4-3	4 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade II	1,525.00
4-4	4 Escudos	1713	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade III	1,250.00
4-5	4 Escudos	(1714)	Mexico	Undated	Grade II	1,100.00
4-6	4 Escudos	(1713)	Mexico	Undated	Grade II	1,050.00
4-7	4 Escudos	(1713)	Mexico	Undated	Grade I	1,350.00
4-8	4 Escudos	(1713)	Mexico	Undated	Grade III	775.00
4-9	4 Escudos	(1713)	Mexico	Undated	Grade IV	700.00

The date of striking of "Undated" coins has been determined by examination of die styles

GOLD COINS OF MEXICO

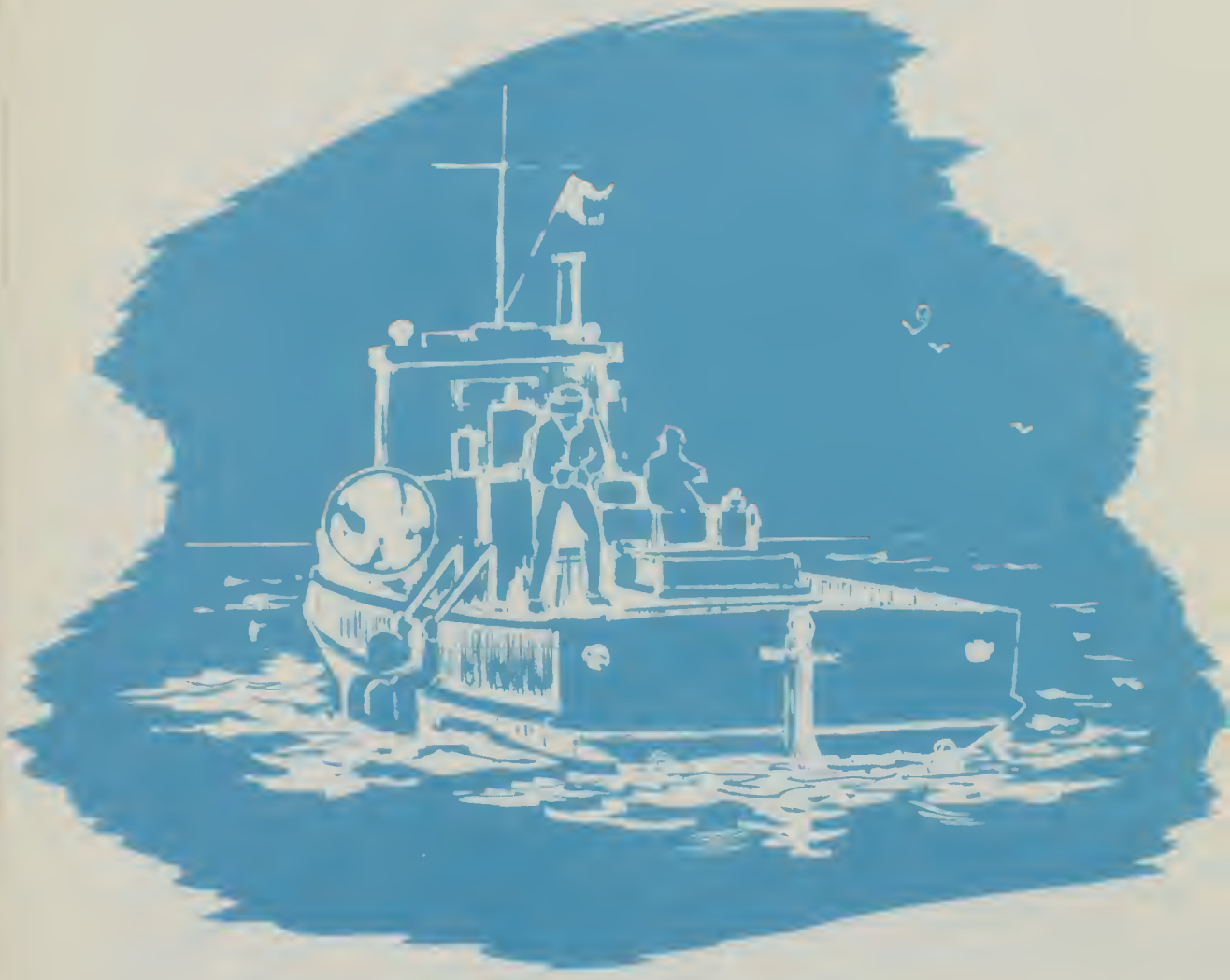
2 ESCUDOS

Obverse: Cross. Reverse: Arms of Spain.

Coins Shown Actual Size

2-1	2 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Full Date	Grade II	$600.00
2-2	2 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Full Date	Grade IV	450.00
2-3	2 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade II	500.00
2-4	2 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade III	375.00
2-5	2 Escudos	1714	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade IV	325.00
2-6	2 Escudos	(1714)	Mexico	Undated	Grade I	400.00
2-7	2 Escudos	(1714)	Mexico	Undated	Grade II	325.00
2-8	2 Escudos	(1714)	Mexico	Undated	Grade III	250.00

Stack's



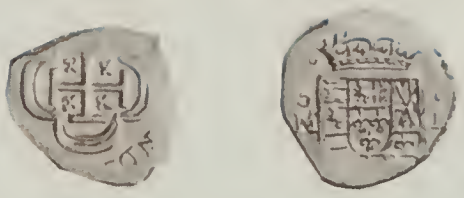
2-9	2 Escudos	(1714)	Mexico	Undated	Grade IV	200.00
2-10	2 Escudos	(1700-10)	Mexico	Undated	Grade II	325.00
2-11	2 Escudos	(1700-10)	Mexico	Undated	Grade III	250.00
2-12	2 Escudos	(1713)	Mexico	Undated	Grade III	275.00

The date of striking of "Undated" coins has been determined by examination of die styles

GOLD COINS OF MEXICO

1 ESCUDO

Obverse: Cross. Reverse: Arms of Spain.



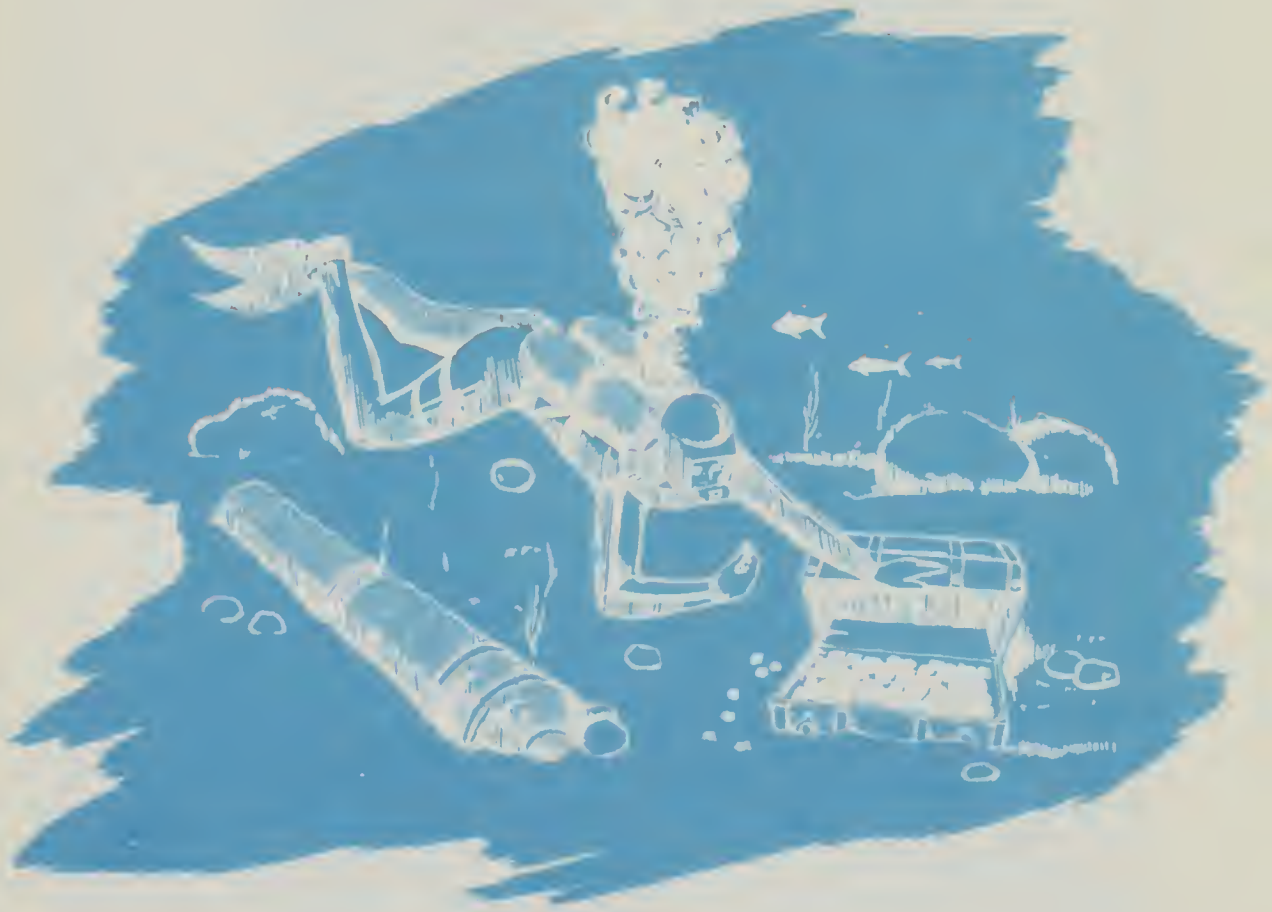
Coins Shown Actual Size

1-1	1 Escudo	1711	Mexico	Full Date	Grade I	$400.00
1-2	1 Escudo	1711	Mexico	Full Date	Grade II	350.00
1-3	1 Escudo	1714	Mexico	Full Date	Grade III	300.00
1-4	1 Escudo	1714	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade II	250.00
1-5	1 Escudo	1714	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade III	200.00
1-6	1 Escudo	1714	Mexico	Partial Date	Grade IV	150.00
1-7	1 Escudo	(1714)	Mexico	Undated	Grade I	200.00
1-8	1 Escudo	(1714)	Mexico	Undated	Grade II	150.00

Stacks

1-9	1 Escudo	(1714)	Mexico	Undated	Grade III	100.00
1-10	1 Escudo	(1711)	Mexico	Undated	Grade II	150.00
1-11	1 Escudo	(1712)	Mexico	Undated	Grade III	100.00
1-12	1 Escudo	(1712)	Mexico	Undated	Grade II	150.00
1-13	1 Escudo	(1712)	Mexico	Undated	Grade IV	90.00
1-14	1 Escudo	(1711)	Mexico	Undated	Grade IV	90.00
1-15	1 Escudo	(1713)	Mexico	Undated	Grade III	100.00
1-16	1 Escudo	(1713)	Mexico	Undated	Grade V	75.00
1-17	1 Escudo	(1712)	Mexico	Undated	Grade V	75.00

The date of striking of "Undated" coins has been determined by examination of die styles



GOLD COINS OF PERU

8 ESCUDOS

Obverse: Cross with Lions and Castles.
Reverse: Crowned Pillars dividing date and mint.

Coins Shown Actual Size

8-11	8 Escudos	1712	Lima	Double Date	Grade II	$ 850.00
8-12	8 Escudos	1712	Lima	Double Date	Grade I	1,000.00
8-13	8 Escudos	1712	Lima	Single Date	Grade II	800.00
8-14	8 Escudos	1712	Lima	Single Date	Grade I	950.00
8-15	8 Escudos	1712	Lima	Single Date	Grade III	800.00
8-16	8 Escudos	1705	Lima	Single Date	Grade I	1,000.00
8-17	8 Escudos	1704	Lima	Single Date	Grade II	950.00

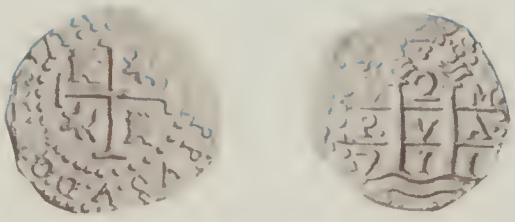
The date of striking of "Undated" coins has been determined by examination of die styles

Stack's

GOLD COINS OF PERU

2 ESCUDOS

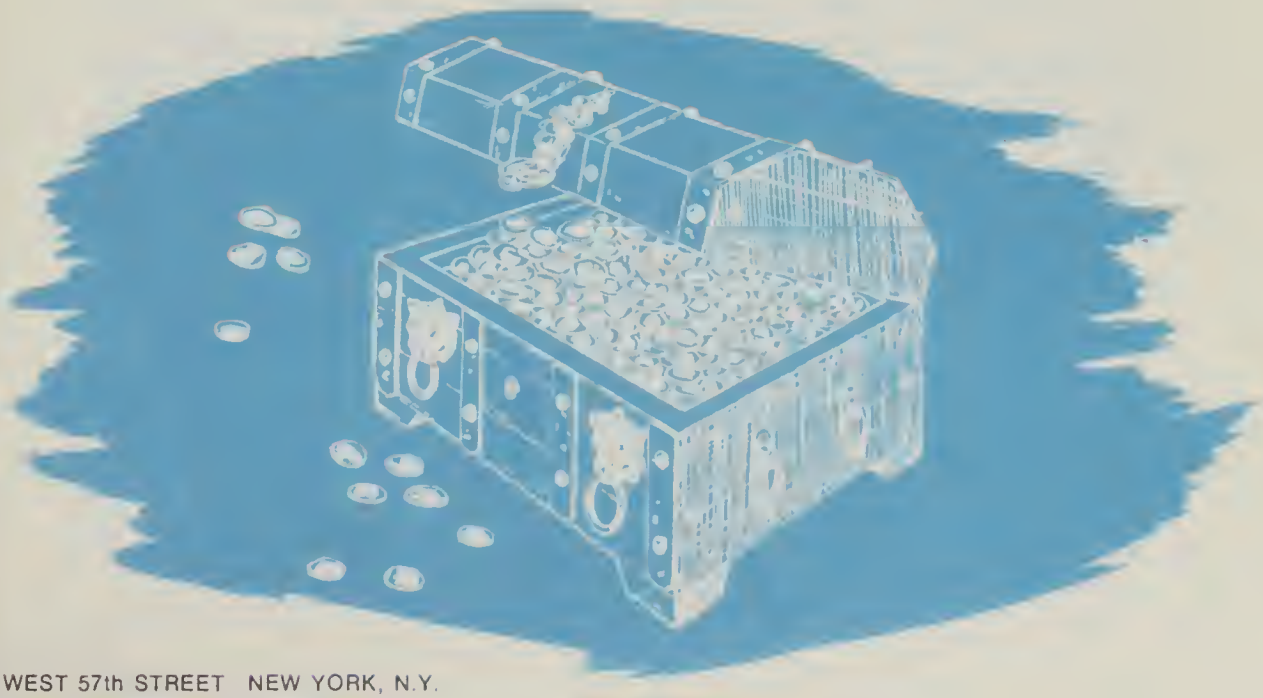
Obverse: Cross with Lions and Castles.
Reverse: Crowned Pillars dividing date and mint.



Coins Shown Actual Size

2-20	2 Escudos	1700	Lima	Single Date	Grade II	$ 600.00
2-21	2 Escudos	1711	Lima	Single Date	Grade I	800.00

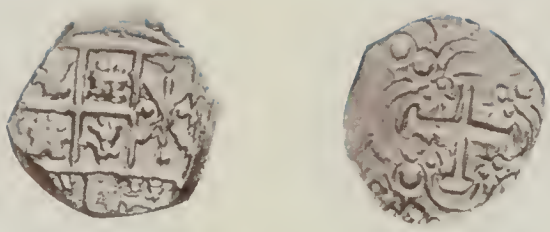
The date of striking of "Undated" coins has been determined by examination of die styles



GOLD COINS OF COLOMBIA

2 ESCUDOS

Obverse: Cross. Reverse: Arms of Spain.



Coins Shown Actual Size

2-13	2 Escudos	(1621-65)	Bogota	Undated	Grade II	$400.00
2-14	2 Escudos	1705	Bogota	Full Date	Grade II	400.00
2-15	2 Escudos	170-	Bogota	Partial Date	Grade IV	200.00
2-16	2 Escudos	1704	Bogota	Full Date	Grade I	800.00
2-17	2 Escudos	--05	Bogota	Partial Date	Grade II	400.00
2-18	2 Escudos	----	Bogota	Undated	Grade III	140.00
2-19	2 Escudos	----	Bogota	Undated	Grade II	200.00

The date of striking of "Undated" coins has been determined by examination of die styles

SILVER COINS FROM THE 1715 SPANISH TREASURE FLEET

While the circumstances affecting the striking of gold cobs are also true of the silver pieces, silver coins recovered from wrecks long immersed in salt water were subjected to a chemical reaction which did not affect gold. The total loss of silver pieces owing to the electrolytic action created by salt water and the presence of iron objects on the copper alloy in the coins was substantial. Many of the coins recovered show some signs of corrosion although there are cases where pieces appear to be virtually unharmed. This factor must be taken into consideration in estimating their condition.

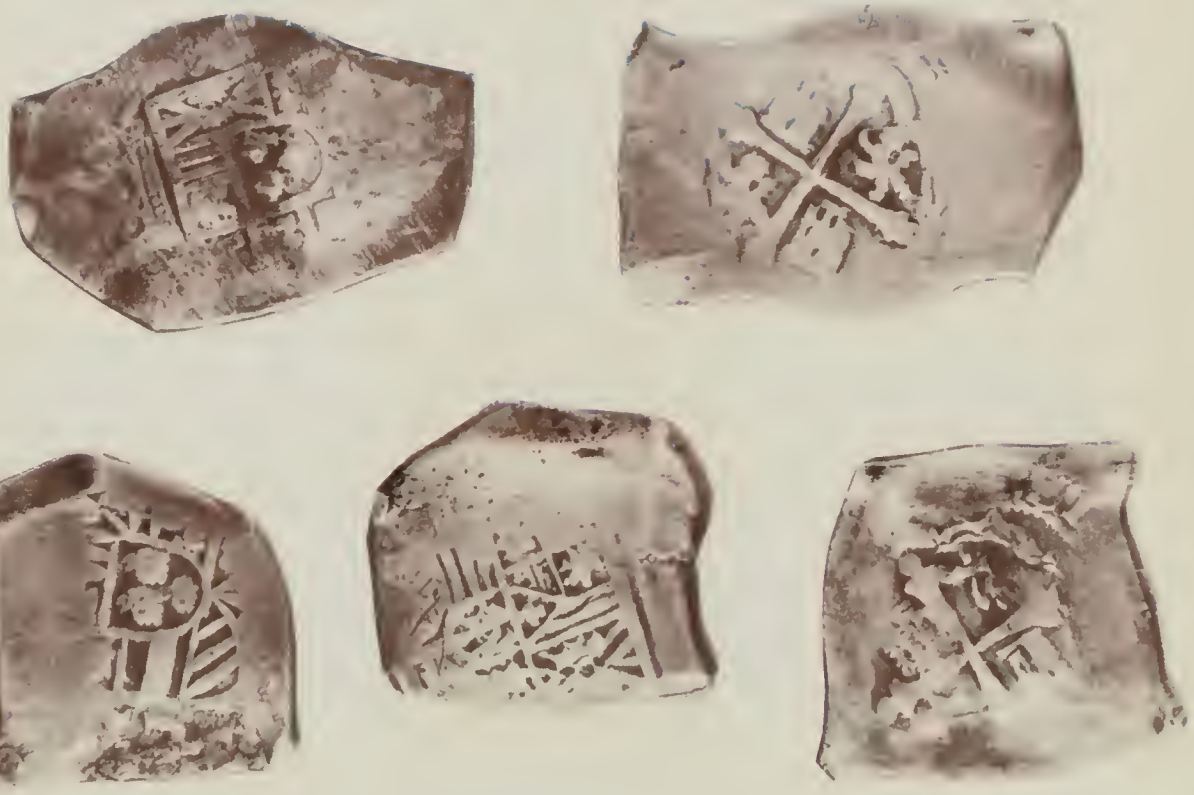
The silver issues are also marked by other distinguishing characteristics. Copper alloyed silver is a much tougher and less tractable metal with which to work than gold. It follows that the bars from which the planchets were cut were seldom made as uniform or round as the gold bars. For this reason the shapes of the silver 4 and 8 Real pieces vary rather widely. The toughness of the metal also made it more difficult to strike pieces with clear and sharp details. In our listing of the two denominations in question, then, we have not felt justified in assigning any of the coins to the two top grades. Coins in the group illustrations were chosen to show representative examples of the shape and condition of the silver cobs recovered from the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet wrecks.

Coins Shown Actual Size

Grade and Price Scale—4 Real Pieces

S-101	4 *Reales*	*Mexico*	*Undated*	*Grade* III	$40
S-102	4 *Reales*	*Mexico*	*Undated*	*Grade* IV	30
S-103	4 *Reales*	*Mexico*	*Undated*	*Grade* V	25

Grade and Price Scale—8 Real Pieces



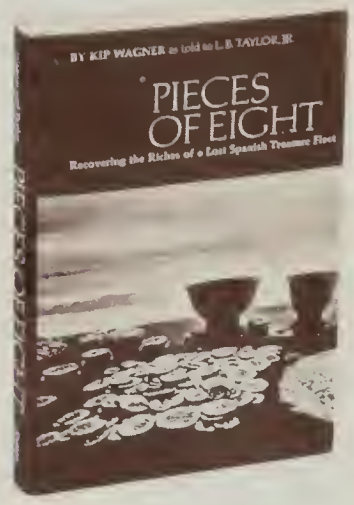
Coins Shown Actual Size

S-104	8 *Reales*	*Mexico*	*Undated*	*Grade* III	$35
S-105	8 *Reales*	*Mexico*	*Undated*	*Grade* IV	30
S-106	8 *Reales*	*Mexico*	*Undated*	*Grade* V	25

Only a very few fully or partially dated silver cobs were found in the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet wrecks. Most of the coins were struck in Mexico and can be assigned to the years 1713, 1714 and 1715 by details of their designs if for no other reason. There were, however, a reasonable number of pieces struck in the Potosi and Lima mints. We will be glad to furnish a list of dated cob 8 Reales upon request. It should be recognized that the prices must reflect their extreme scarcity. Coins in the group illustrations were chosen to show representative examples of the shape and condition of the silver cobs recovered from the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet wrecks.

PIECES OF EIGHT

The Exciting Tale of A Successful Treasure Hunt



$7.50

This is the incredible, true story behind the greatest sunken treasure find in recent history. The happy accident that started it all—the hopes, the frustrations, the soaring triumph of success, the battles to retain the rewards—the fascinating chronicle of the location and recovery of the fabulous Treasure of 1715. "Pieces of Eight" is a skillfully written, suspenseful, true-to-life tale of adventure and history . . . 221 pages of arm-chair excitement for anyone who can conjure a private vision around phrases such as "sunken treasure", "pieces of eight", "Spanish galleons", and the like. Great reading.

"Of all the books on treasure hunting which have hit the market in recent years none can surpass "Pieces of Eight" in suspense, drama and actual value of recovered treasure."

"Pieces of Eight is an exciting adventure story"

"This is a fine piece of true adventure in the popular vein"

"It is an exciting tale"

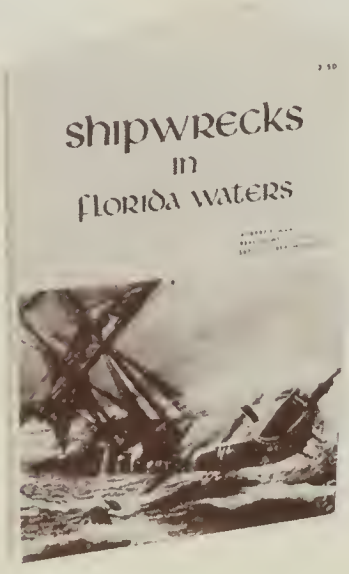
"For anyone who has any interest in history and adventure"

"One of the more intriguing and exciting stories"

"What a sensationally exciting story"

SHIPWRECKS IN FLORIDA WATERS

Specific Locations of Actual Shipwreck Sites Along the Florida Peninsula



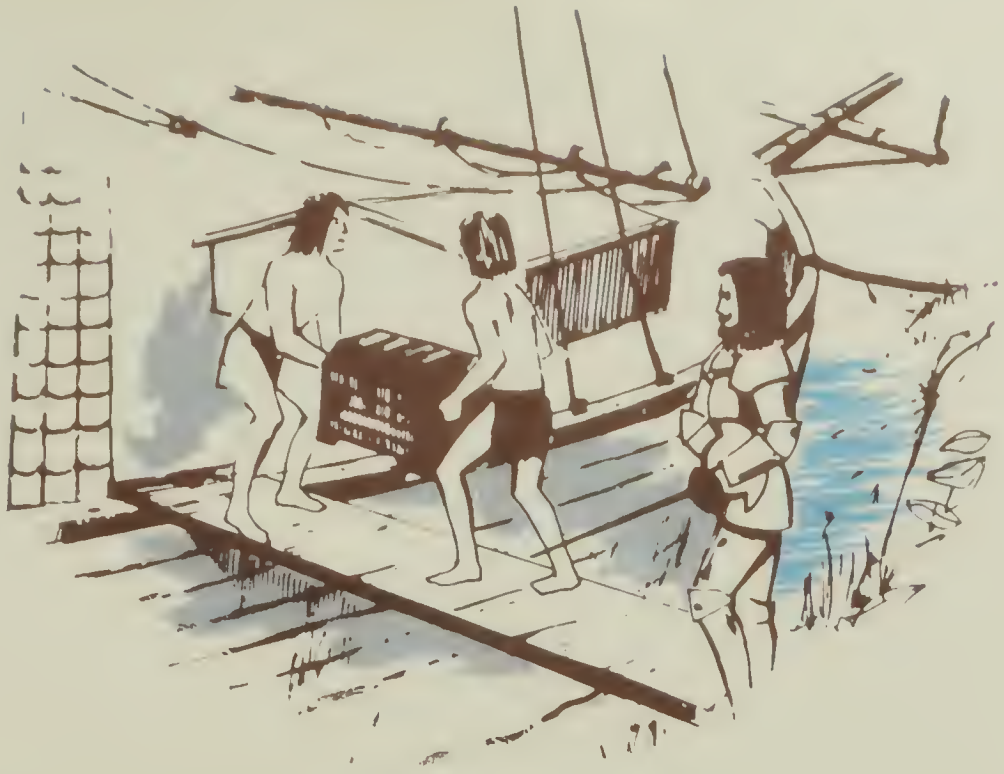
$2.50

Written by Robert F. Marx, Research Director of the Real Eight Co., discoverer of the "Treasure of 1715", this concise volume deals factually and accurately with the famous flotilla wreck sites of Florida ocean and gulf waters.

The result of eleven years of painstaking research, carried out in the major archives, libraries and museums of Europe, this illustrated book will be of great interest to adventuresome skindivers and serious treasure hunters. It contains the locations of close to 400 recorded shipwrecks . . . in many cases with close to pinpoint accuracy. It carries pictures of old charts, various galleon designs, ancient nautical instruments and X-ray exposures showing how modern treasure hunting teams have mastered scientific salvage procedures.

The author deals with: The Spanish Treasure Fleets; Other Nations in the New World; The Early Salvors and their Methods; Historical Information on Shipwrecks; 15th Through 18th Century Shipwrecks in Florida Waters; and other intriguing subject areas.

Published with the knowledge that the author's organization, Real Eight Co. will never be able to properly explore all of the known treasure sites, "Shipwrecks in Florida Waters" makes fascinating reading for all those with a sense of history—a hunger for adventure.



THE coins pictured on the foregoing pages are available only from STACK's. And, although there are, generally, several specimens of each type described, the quantity is necessarily limited. We respectfully suggest therefore that you make your selections soon and, where possible, choose one or more alternate pieces to allow us a maximum opportunity to meet your needs.

A postage free order form is enclosed for your convenience. If you do not already enjoy a charge account with STACK'S please enclose a check or money order with your request. Please do not send cash.

If your order cannot be filled we shall return your remittance at once. If you are not completely satisfied, in every way, with the material you receive you may return it to us for a full and immediate refund.

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MEXICO